

TOOLKIT

Baby Futures – Early Investment, Lifelong Returns

What is Learn, Do, Give?

Just as the complex needs of young children are best met through a combined effort of research, programs, and policy, people supporting the early childhood field can work along the continuum of Learn, Do, and Give to make a meaningful, positive difference in the lives of babies, toddlers and their families.

At Baby Futures and in this Toolkit, we hope to provide information, resources, and inspiration that will help you Learn more, Do more, or Give more in support of early childhood needs and opportunities in Los Angeles.

No matter how much or little time you have, you can make a difference.

LEARN page 2

DO page 5

GIVE page 8

For more information, contact:

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Research, learning, and information

We know how best to support early childhood development thanks to decades of science and research into how young children learn and thrive. This research has practical and powerful applications—capturing the need for interventions or the evidence of high returns from early investment in babies’ and toddlers’ health and well-being and that of their families:

- For children with a variety of developmental conditions, research demonstrates the powerful impact of early intervention, leading to successful therapeutic programs and services.
- To craft early childhood health and education policies, state and local officials use key findings from published research to help make the case for investment and to guide program development.
- And, in vulnerable communities, demographic mapping of data helps identify gaps in the availability of services, overlaps, and opportunities for the highest potential growth of human capital.

PROFILE: HEALTHY CITY – A mapping tool for making wise investments in young children

Neighborhood characteristics play a powerful role in the health and well-being of children and families. Healthy City is a state-of-the-art website that provides parents, providers, and policymakers with up-to-date information about the status of LA’s children and the availability of resources to meet their needs, in any given ZIP code. The information about these neighborhood characteristics, resources or lack thereof helps foundations shape their program strategies and geographic target areas. Funded by The Los Angeles Public/Private Funders Partnership for Infants & Toddlers, Healthy City collected extensive data from the Partnership’s members on all relevant grantees serving a prenatal-to-5 population in Los Angeles and plugged it into a customized, interactive mapping website to facilitate joint planning among Partnership members.

The mapping system not only allows each member of the Partnership to view their own grant information but also depicts the ‘peaks and valleys’ of the members’ collective grantmaking activity throughout LA County. Combining this information with demographic data on the concentrations of the prenatal-5 populations, the Partnership can now more easily identify high-need areas that are not receiving adequate philanthropic attention. Go to www.healthycity.org to experience first hand what the site can do.

USEFUL LINKS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD RESEARCH FINDINGS**First 5 LA**

Click here for sources of data on families with young children in LA County

Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles - Saban Research Institute

Click here for research initiatives on pediatric diseases and child health

National Scientific Council on the Developing Child

Click here for papers on brain architecture and early child development

RAND Corporation

Click here for research topics on pre-school in California, infant mortality and the economics of early childhood investment

UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities

Click here for reports addressing foster care and community systems for young children in California

UCLA Semel Institute, Department of Psychiatry

Click here for studies addressing infant and child mental health and anxiety disorders

ACTION STEPS TO LEARN MORE:

Take 5 minutes:

- Download the Fact Sheet on California's Children At A Glance [Click here](#)
- Visit or subscribe to:
 - ZERO TO THREE's The Baby Monitor*, an e-newsletter of policy updates and links to the latest publications and resources on early childhood across the nation [Click here](#)
 - First 5 LA's Monday Morning Report* delivers a local lens on policy, community partners, and links to news and events on the Los Angeles calendar [Click here](#)
 - The Infancy Childhood and Relationship Enrichment (ICARE) Network* is dedicated to providing effective, culturally competent mental health services and support for Los Angeles children ages 0–5 and their families [Click here](#)
 - Early Ed Watch* is a blog that provides analysis, reporting and commentary on early education in the nation [Click here](#)
- Bookmark the publications of the UCLA National Center for Infant and Early Childhood Health Policy – Click here to see titles on early childhood in relation to stress, economics, and cultural competency. [Click here](#)
- Review the weekly newsletter from Los Angeles Universal Preschool [Click here](#)

Take a morning:

- Go on a site visit with First 5 LA ([Click here](#)) and other funders or agencies. Spend some time in a childcare or early education center to see what it is really like. Observe the environment and the relationship of the staff to each other and to the kids.
- Visit and use the Healthy City website and mapping tools [Click here](#)
- Attend the presentation on home visiting for newborn babies at The Los Angeles Public/Private Funders Partnership for Infants & Toddlers meeting on October 14, 2008, at 10:15 am at The California Endowment. RSVP to Mary Kopp at mary@causeaffect.com.
- Attend Baby Futures' Learn, Do, Give luncheon on October 14, 2008, immediately following the Partnership meeting. RSVP at www.babyfutures.org.
- Listen to or download the expert presentations from Baby Futures ([Click here](#)) or from The National Symposium on Early Childhood Science and Policy 2008 [Click here](#)
- Search for California statistics on the Kids Count website, funded by Annie E. Casey Foundation [Click here](#)
- Talk to an expert in early childhood to learn what he or she is doing and what is needed to move the field forward
- Talk to a parent of a young child to see how he or she is successfully solving a challenge

Take a deeper look:

- Attend the annual conference of Grantmakers for Children, Youth, and Families, in Chicago, IL, October 15–17, 2008 - "Funding for Sustainable Change: Linking Research, Practice and Policy," [Click here](#)
- Attend ZERO TO THREE's National Training Institute December 5–7 in Los Angeles or the pre-institute for funders on December 4, 2008. Learn more [Click here](#)

INFORMATION TO LEARN MORE - ARTICLES, RESOURCES, LINKS

- “The Irreducible Needs of Children”, T. Berry Brazelton and Stanley I. Greenspan
- “Development in the First Years of Life,” Ross Thompson, UC Davis *[see PDF]*
- “Los Angeles County by the numbers: A decade of data about child care in California counties,” The California Child Care Portfolio [Click here](#)
- “From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development,” Jack Shonkoff and Deborah Phillipps [Click here](#)
- “Play in The Early Years: Key to School Success,” Bay Area Early Childhood Funders [Click here](#)
- “Who Is Ahead and Who Is Behind? Gaps in School Readiness and Student Achievement in the Early Grades for California’s Children,” RAND [Click here](#)
- “Early Care and Education in the Golden State: Publicly Funded Programs Serving California’s Preschool-Age Children,” RAND [Click here](#)
- “The Dollars and Sense of Investing Early: Cost–Benefit Analysis in Early Care and Education,” ZERO TO THREE [Click here](#)
- “What Does Economics Tell Us About Early Childhood Policy?” RAND [Click here](#)

Leadership, advocacy, and engagement

Moving the needle on early childhood in Los Angeles requires leadership, advocacy and involvement by a strong base of our community members. A wise investment of your time can help in making positive change for young children and their families. Individuals have a number of options for getting involved and each can bring great value.

Consider taking action in support of early childhood initiatives:

- Volunteer for a program addressing the needs of young children and their families
- Serve as a member of the Board of a non-profit organization
- Join a funder collaborative or donor network focused on young children
- Engage in advocacy for state and local policies that ensure protection and resources for expectant parents and families with young children

PROFILE: EVERYCHILD FOUNDATION – A women’s foundation supporting children’s services in LA

Founded by Jacqueline Caster, Everychild Foundation is comprised of 225 Los Angeles women who each donate \$5,000 in annual dues rather than holding fundraising events. Each year, the Everychild members vote to choose one non-profit to receive a \$1 million grant in support of direct services that improve the lives of children in the greater Los Angeles area. Seeing the potential for wider impact on children through policy advocacy, Everychild Foundation formed the Public Policy Committee in 2007 and promoted advocacy involvement to its members. The Committee’s policy interests began with foster care issues, as well as efforts to increase government and philanthropic support and investment in the needs of very young children ages 0–3.

Today, a member of Everychild sits on the executive committee of The Los Angeles Public/Private Funders Partnership for Infants & Toddlers, while others participate in the Early Identification and Intervention Collaborative, focusing on improving legislation, funding and screening of infants and toddlers at risk for mental, developmental and physical delays. In addition, other committee members have joined a local network of foster care advocates, meeting with state and local public officials to promote positive change in policies for children who are in or aging out of foster care. They are in the process of adding a third policy focus, dovetailing their two areas of interest to educate members and the wider community about the circumstances and risks posed to infants and toddlers placed in the foster care system. Everychild is working to convene a workshop around this issue to launch local advocacy efforts on behalf on this most vulnerable population. For more information on Everychild Foundation, go to www.everychildfoundation.org.

USEFUL LINKS TO ADVOCACY ON EARLY CHILDHOOD**Action Alliance for Children**

Click here for action on child welfare, child care, and child abuse

California Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism

Click here for a statewide legislative advocacy agenda for children with autism

Child Welfare League of America

Click here for action on foster care and adoption rights in California

Children NOW Online Action Center

Click here for children’s access to health insurance and television programming

Children’s Advocacy Institute

Click here for advocacy in Sacramento on foster care, child care, and children’s safety

Children's Defense Fund

Click here for a national policy agenda on child poverty, health insurance, child welfare, and early education

Children's Health Initiative of Greater Los Angeles

Click here for a workgroup on health coverage for all uninsured children in Los Angeles

Every Child Matters

Click here for outreach to federal and state officials on pre-school, health coverage, after-school care, and safety

First 5 LA

Click here to monitor LA policy and promote young children's early learning, health coverage, oral health, safety, and parental needs

Foundation for Childhood Development

Click here for the Child Well-Being Index and initiatives for early education of young children in immigrant families

National Foster Care Month

Click here for a toolkit to get involved and a menu of "how to change a lifetime"

PreSchool California

Click here to take action for access to quality pre-school for all children in California

The Child Development Policy Institute

Click here for advocacy on behalf of children and families in California's state budget process

ZERO TO THREE

Click here to join the Policy network and help the needs of infants and toddlers be sufficiently addressed by public policy

ACTION STEPS TO DO MORE:

Take 5 minutes:

- Bookmark the 'Take Action Now' page on The Child Development and Policy Institute's website **Click here**
- Email friends or colleagues to share Baby Futures' website, resources and multi-media tools **Click here**
- Subscribe to ZERO TO THREE'S Policy Network and e-newsletter, *The Baby Monitor* **Click here** to know about key federal and state policy issues, publications, and advocacy tools
- Subscribe to First 5 LA's *Monday Morning Report* and other child advocacy newsletters and put a local lens on early childhood policy and practice **Click here**
- Subscribe to the monthly Children's Advocate Bulletin from the Action Alliance for Children, conveying advocacy opportunities related to issues affecting California's children and families.
- Email The Child Development Policy Institute to receive their Bulletin **Click here**
- Bookmark Baby Futures' Policy Links page on our website **Click here**

Take a morning:

- Write letters to newspaper editors about young children’s health, education and safety
- Contact elected officials, the governor, and state and federal lawmakers to voice your support for legislation that improves the well-being of all children
- Volunteer your time with a local agency or child services center
- Go on a site visit with First 5 LA and other funders or agencies [Click here](#)
- Take a policymaker on a site visit with you

Take a deeper look:

- Serve on the Board of Directors of a community non-profit or child service organization
- Organize a house party or salon to share early childhood information and advocacy with your friends and family
- Organize an event or forum for local leaders and prominent individuals to raise awareness of the impact, need, and opportunity for investing in early childhood
- Join an advocacy campaign with groups like Los Angeles Community Health Councils, Inc. ([Click here](#)) or Children NOW [Click here](#)
- Consider launching an endeavor like Minnesota Business for Early Learning, promoting best practices in the workplace and impacting early childhood public policy [Click here](#)
- Launch or join an early childhood policy task force in your city or LA County
- Make your workplace family friendly and set policies that enhance professional development while respecting personal needs
- Join The Los Angeles Public/Private Funders Partnership for Infants & Toddlers and get active in our work [Click here](#)

INFORMATION TO DO MORE - ARTICLES, RESOURCES, LINKS

- Helping Young Children Succeed: Strategies to Promote Early Childhood Social and Emotional Development (ZERO TO THREE and the National Conference of State Legislatures) [Click here](#)
- Starting Off Right: Promoting Child Development from Birth in State Early Care and Education Initiatives (Center for Law and Social Policy) [Click here](#)
- From Neurons to King County Neighborhoods: The Science and Policies of Early Childhood Development (Public Health – Seattle) Article [Click here](#) Booklet [Click here](#)
- Early Childhood Development Toolkit For County Leaders (NACo - National Association of Counties) [Click here](#)
- Raising Young Children to the Top of the Policy Agenda: Lessons from Illinois (Ounce of Prevention Fund) [Click here](#)
- Foundations: How States Can Plan and Fund Programs for Babies & Toddlers (Ounce of Prevention Fund) [Click here](#)
- Menu of Low-Cost Ideas to Support School Readiness for Children Newborn to Age Five (MAISA Early Childhood Committee) [Click here](#)
- 5 Ideas for Children Five Years and Younger (National Conference of State Legislatures) [Click here](#)
- Advocacy Toolkit (Early Years Advocacy Groups, Connecticut) [Click here](#)
- Parent Advocacy Toolkit (Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition) [Click here](#)
- How to Plan a Site Visit: Inviting Policymakers to See Your Work with Infants, Toddlers & Their Families (ZERO TO THREE) [Click here](#)

Listen, partner, lead

Whether giving individually or in partnership, the efforts of foundations, businesses, individuals, public agencies, and organizations have the power to leverage lifelong returns that benefit the community and economy through improving outcomes for children. Investing in the prenatal-to-3 period pays off in future dividends in healthy, curious, confident children who grow up to be caring, productive adults, and, ultimately, parents who are proud and self-sufficient.

Strategic investments in early childhood yield high public and private returns. How can you be as strategic as possible in your philanthropy? Consider **strategic giving** efforts that:

- Strengthen services and infrastructure
- Support community leadership and advocacy
- Foster organizational learning and growth
- Promote public information and engagement
- Develop trust and collaboration with grantees, decision makers, and other community leaders

These characteristics are as important as the money we give. Other good practices in charitable giving include:

General operating support—general operating grants provide grantees with needed flexibility, the power to make decisions about programming, and the ability to dynamically respond to changes.

Multi-year funding—public policy change and research results can take years to come to fruition. Reliable, multi-year support is often key to nonprofit organizations' ability to stay engaged in long-term efforts.

Portfolio diversity—since social impact and policy change result from varied activities over time, funding a set of complementary strategies such as Research, Policy, and Programs can be an effective approach to investing in early childhood, achieving a sum greater than its parts.

PROFILE: DALE AND STEPHANIE HARVEY - A new giving plan dedicated to early childhood

The experience of Dale and Stephanie Harvey in creating an early childhood giving strategy spans multiple points on the Learn, Do, Give continuum. As acquaintances of Rich Atlas, the Harveys first attended Baby Futures in 2007 with an interest in learning more about the high returns on investment in this field. Afterwards, they decided to focus their giving in Pasadena, and to identify local agencies with whom they could develop long-term relationships.

Dale and Stephanie used their personal networks to select the groups they supported. Dale has served on the board of Foothill Family Service for seven years, including a term as Chair. Stephanie has volunteered with Friends of Foothill Family and the Baby Futures planning committee in 2008. Site visits and school programs linked them to Mothers Club and the Pasadena Boys and Girls Club as well.

As Dale explained, “Baby Futures got us to re-think: if we want education to improve, how do we do it? It became important to us to invest in the community and the early years, to make sure that the kids who show up for school are capable of learning. With a whole suite of needs to support—job training for moms, after-school programs—we have shifted money from high school programs to more community-based programs like Boys and Girls Clubs. Every time you hear a story about one of the kids, you can say, ‘I helped that child have a better life.’ Next I am thinking about how to get the providers together to collaborate so the sum is even greater than its parts.”

In the future, the Harveys are moving from a donor-advised fund to form a small family foundation. Their vision includes sharing their strategy with friends and colleagues: “I want to present this portfolio to additional people and say: ‘Here’s why it makes sense to intervene now, and we’ve done the due diligence. You can write a check and distribute it pro rata across the group or choose one of these groups to support.’”

USEFUL LINKS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING COLLABORATIVES

[The Los Angeles Public/Private Funders Partnership for Infants & Toddlers](#)
Click here for more information

[Grantmakers for Children, Youth, and Families](#)
Click here for more information

[Early Childhood Funders \(Northern California\)](#)
Click here for more information

[Minnesota Early Childhood Funders Network](#)
Click here for more information

[Early Childhood Funders' Collaborative \(ECFC\) Build Initiative \(Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania\)](#)
Click here for more information

Membership

Membership in **The Los Angeles Public/Private Funders Partnership for Infants and Toddlers** is open to public, private and individual funders who have the resources, intention and interest in leveraged grantmaking in early childhood.

FOUNDATIONS

The Ahmanson Foundation
The Angell Foundation
The Annenberg Foundation
The Atlas Family Foundation
California Community Foundation
The California Endowment
The Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
Crail-Johnson Foundation
Dwight Stuart Youth Foundation
Everychild Foundation
First 5 LA
George Hoag Family Foundation
James S. Bower Foundation
The Jewish Community Foundation
Kayne Foundation
W.M. Keck Foundation
Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
S. Mark Taper Foundation
Tikun Olam Foundation
United Way of Greater Los Angeles
Weingart Foundation

PUBLIC SECTOR

LA County Chief Executive Office,
Service Integration, Research &
Evaluations Services
LA County Commission for Children
and Families
LA County Department of Children
and Family Services
LA County Department of Health Services
LA County Department of Mental Health,
Prenatal to Five Program
Early Childhood Education Division
of LAUSD

INDIVIDUALS

Kip & MaryAnn Hagopian
Cheryl Saban
Charlie & Peggy Norris
Tari Weiss

ACTION STEPS FOR GIVING :

Take 5 minutes:

- Write a check to a local service provider or child advocacy group
- Set up a monthly donation to your favorite early childhood organization
- Scan the grant list of a peer foundation for groups new to you that might be of interest
- Bookmark a collaborative's website and resources

Take a morning:

- Attend the expert presentation about home visiting for newborn babies and their parents, at 10:15 am at the October 14 meeting of The Los Angeles Public/Private Funders Partnership for Infants and Toddlers, at The California Endowment. RSVP to Mary Kopp at mary@causeaffect.com.
- Join the Baby Futures Learn, Do, Give luncheon immediately following The Partnership's meeting on October 14. RSVP at www.babyfutures.org.
- Participate in the one-day pre-institute for funders at ZERO TO THREE'S National Training Institute on December 4, 2008, at the Westin Bonaventure in downtown Los Angeles. [Click here](#) for more information

Take a deeper look:

- Expand or create an early childhood giving portfolio
- Consider joining The Los Angeles Public/Private Funders Partnership for Infants and Toddlers
- Consider joining Grantmakers for Children, Youth, and Families and attend their annual conference in Chicago, IL, October 15–17, 2008 - "Funding for Sustainable Change: Linking Research, Practice and Policy"
- Underwrite a special service at a local center for families with young children
- Host a fundraising event for an agency or community group
- Establish a corporate contribution plan, seed an endowment fund, or set up an employee giving campaign to support early childhood and vulnerable children and families

INFORMATION ON STRATEGIC GIVING - ARTICLES, RESOURCES, LINKS

- Collaboration Approaches for Smaller Foundations: Partnering to Focus on Results for Communities (Baltimore Neighborhood Collective) [Click here](#)
- Listen, Learn, Lead: Grantmaker Practices that Support NonProfit Results (Grantmakers for Effective Organizations) [Click here](#)
- Creating High-Impact Nonprofits (Stanford Social Innovation Review) [Click here](#)
- General Operating Support Action Guide (Grantmakers for Effective Organizations) [Click here](#)
- Learning for Results (Grantmakers for Effective Organizations) [Click here](#)
- Evaluation as a Pathway to Learning (Grantmakers for Effective Organizations) [Click here](#)
- Setting the Policy Table: The Role of Children, Youth and Family Grantmakers in Public Policy (Grantmakers for Children, Youth & Families) [Click here](#)
- Advocacy Funding Guide: The Philanthropy of Changing Minds (GrantCraft) [Click here](#)
- Why Funding Advocacy Makes Sense for Foundations (Atlantic Philanthropies) [Click here](#)
- Private Foundations and Policy Making: Latitude Under Federal Tax Law (The Center on Philanthropy & Public Policy, USC) [Click here](#)
- Building Constituencies in Diverse Communities: Lessons from a Learning Journey (Grantmakers for Children, Youth, & Families) [Click here](#)